

THE TELLER.

LEWISTON, NORTH IDAHO.

SATURDAY.....SEPTEMBER 8, 1877.

Incidents of an Indian Murder.

LEWISTON, Aug. 31st. 1877.

Mr. A. LELAND—DEAR SIR:—Since the murder of my brother, Harry Mason, by the Indians, several stories have been circulated respecting his manner of conducting our flight; which conflicts strongly with the truth, and does him injustice.

I would like through your paper, to state the facts. On the 14th of June at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. Osborne came to my brother's store and told him that he had just been told by Mr. Titman that the Indians had killed two Frenchmen at John Days, and that the people of Slate Creek wanted us to come there without delay, as they believed the Indians had broken out. Mr. T. with his wife and children were mounted and just starting for Slate Creek, when Mr. Osborne saw them. My brother could not find anything in the information given him to warrant the idea of an Indian outbreak. Three Indians had gone up the river the day before, and we believed it more likely that the killing had been done by these three while drunk. Squaws had passed up and down about as usual and the leading indications of Indian war were wanting; still, the excitement of our neighbors indicated their possessing more information than we could get.

When Mr. Osborne came into the store, Mr. Wm. George, French Frank and Shoemaker were sitting there, having just finished lunch, and brother Harry was lying on his bed in one corner of the store to get away from the light, as he had hurt his eye with a whip while driving cattle. As soon as Mr. Osborne was gone Harry began to clean and load his arms, and Mr. George started below to inform the families between our place and Whitebird. Before he went brother decided to stay at home, as he said that if the Indians were fighting above us we would be running right into the fire by going to Slate Creek. I think Mr. George went up to Mr. Osborne's first and told them to come to Harry's, and then started below. He had not gone far when he met a man known as Koon, coming from Mr. Baker's, and turned back with him. Koon told us that there were three Indians below, and they had shot Sam. Benedict in the legs. When Koon rode on Mr. George started again, and Harry told him to tell Mr. Baker to gather his neighbors and come up the river because his (Harry's) place was more open and we could see better what was coming, and there was a good place upon the mountain back of the house to hide the women and children. When Mr. G. returned he brought word that the families below were going to gather at Mr. Baker's and we were to go down there. This message was then taken to Mr. Osbornes. Mr. Baker had also sent up a horse for Mrs. Osborne to ride. About six o'clock the Osbornes came down and we started down the river for Mr. Baker's. We only had three horses in all. When we got to the Whitebird creek, near Mr. Baker's,

we who had horses rode over, there dismounted and sent the horses back for the others; we had all crossed, and were just mounting our own horses again, when one heard a hoop, and looking ahead saw a band of about 18 or 20 Indians right in front of us; we were on a flat near an enclosure which I believed to be Mr. Baker's garden. The Indians called out for the men to come and talk with them. But the men only told them to leave, when the Indians began firing. Mrs. Osborne ran to the fence and pulling off a couple of pickets pushed two of her children through and followed after. Her husband went through with the other two. I waited to see what Harry was going to do. He stood with his gun in position looking around as if considering whether to fight or run. He could not get his ammunition off of his horse, and he decided it was better to save that in his gun (a Winchester) for a greater emergency. When I asked him if I should go after the others he said yes; so I started with my children and he followed. We crossed a corner of the garden through tall grass and bushes. The Indians firing every little while hap hazard, as it was getting quite dark. We waded across the creek and hid in some bushes until the moon went down. Mr. George did not follow us when we ran. I will mention here that French Frank and Shoemaker stayed at Harry's place. When it grew quite dark and we could hear nothing of the Indians, we started up one of the gulches to the ridge. About half way up we met Mr. George who had been wounded in the finger. He had started for the prairie. Harry gave him directions to find the way without getting in the road. Harry would not start for the prairie then, because there was danger unless we could get to Mt. Idaho before daylight. His plan was to go back to his place, get some food for the children and cross the river before daylight, hide on the other side during the day and start out the next night. But it was slow travelling with six small children, the oldest I believe was 9 years old, and the sun rose before we reached Harry's house; when we were near, still back of the ridge. Harry went ahead to reconnoitre. He saw the two men who had stayed there, moving around as though getting ready for breakfast, and of course concluded that all was right there, so we went down the mountain. When we arrived at the house, we found that the Indians had been through, and plundered the house in the night and had gone up the river. The two men had run out and hid until the Indians went on. Harry said we must get out as soon as possible. I turned out the contents of two stone crocks of bread and cake and set out a dish of cold meat and the children were each given a handful, and two of the men filled each a sack and tied them around their waists, and we started out again. It was considered best to cross the river at the french claim; and we started up there. French Frank went with us; Shoemaker stooped to let the calves out and did not catch up with us. Just as we got near Osborn's cabin the Indians came in sight, we all ran in and the Indians rode up and called on the men to come out; Mr. Osborne told them to Clatawa. They called out again, and Mr. Osborne told them to leave. They shouted back that they would make us come out and began firing rocks at the window, a small one with three lig ts. As soon as the window was broken the men raised their guns to fire on the Indians and each man was shot down

before he had time to shoot. In two minutes from the first shot the three were all prone on the floor. Mr Osborne was killed almost instantly, and the others were badly wounded. The Indians continued firing for some time before venturing to come in. They also threw a bundle of burning rags into the house. Mrs. Osborne and myself with our children, only escaped being shot by crawling under the bed. When the cowards found our men were helpless, they came in and dragged them out doors, giving Harry and French Frank each a final shot. They told us then that they did not want to kill us; that we might go to Slate Creek or Lewiston without fear. They also told us who they had killed up the river and down. They mentioned some who were afterwards found alive. Harry did not live to know that his friend at John Days was killed. When the Indians first surrounded the cabin my brother sprang on to one of the beds to fire through a crevice between the logs. He had a good chance at about 6 or 8 savages, who seemed to be unconscious of danger, but just as he was going to shoot, Mr. Osborne said, "don't shoot yet!" And at the same time Mrs. Osborne called, "don't shoot Harry!" He turned and looked at them lowering his gun without a word. I shall never forget that look. There was a prophecy in it. He knew that he was giving up his last chance.

Respectfully yours,
HELEN J. WALSH.

Telegrams From Oregonian

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28.—Gen Terry, having brought information that Sitting Bull with 1,300 warriors was in camp this side of the British line, all further proceedings in regard to selecting a commission to arrange for his return to the United States has been suspended. Gen. Terry will remain here several days to consult with the secretary of war as to what plans shall be adopted in regard to the Sioux chief.

NEW YORK, Aug. 30.—A Post Washington dispatch says that Gen. Terry does not credit the report that Sitting Bull and his band has returned to U. S. territory, and thinks the Indians seen and reported as being Sitting Bull's band are a small party which never went across the Canadian border at all, but remained within our territory. A dispatch has been sent to the Canadian authorities asking whether Sitting Bull has actually returned to American soil. The Sitting Bull commission will not leave until a reply to the dispatch is received. Secretary Schurz is confident that Sitting Bull is still in Canada.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—The 3d regiment of Infantry, now stationed in Pennsylvania, has been ordered to Montana to reinforce Col. Gifford's command.

The O. S. N. Co.

The Oregon Steam Navigation Company have made a number of very expensive improvements this year in the way of boats, barges, wharf boats and inclines, and yet, so we learn, the work for the year has just begun. Another large boat—of six or eight hundred tons—will be built at their ship yard in this city; also, a large wharf boat for the Cascades. At Celilo, they will build a light draft boat for the navigation of Snake river at low water. This is to be completed in thirty days. Besides all this a new wharf boat, of immense size, will be built for Wallula.

The amount of money that the Company will expend for the improvements will be immense and is calculated to make money plenty and business lively.—*Mountaineer.*

SALT LAKE, Aug. 29.—Brigham Young died this afternoon at 4 o'clock of inflammation of the bowels. He had been sick about a week. His death will weaken the Mormon Church and probably destroy it.—*Tel. to Avalanche*

SUMMONS.

In the District Court, 1st Judicial District, Territory of Idaho, County of Nez Perce, Henderson Crites, plaintiff vs. Ellen Crites, defendant.

To Ellen Crites, defendant.

WHEREAS, HENDERSON CRITES as plaintiff has brought an Action against you in the above named court, the complaint in which is filed in said county, which action is to dissolve the bonds of matrimony and for general relief. You are, therefore, hereby required to appear and answer the said complaint within the time following, to-wit: If served within said county, ten days; if served out of said county but within said district, twenty days; in all other cases 30 days, exclusive in either case of the day of service. Otherwise judgement by default will be taken against you, according to the prayer of said complaint by which prayer the plaintiff asks the dissolution of bonds of matrimony and general relief, and you will take notice that if you fail to answer the said complaint, the plaintiff will take judgement according to prayer of complaint.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court this 4th day of AUGUST A. D. 1877.
H. SQUIER,
Clerk of the 1st Judicial District.
D. J. WARNER,
Deputy Clerk.

SUMMONS.

In the District Court of the First Judicial District of Idaho Territory in and for the County of Nez Perce.

Loewenberg Bros. plaintiffs, vs. Saml. Phinney et al, defendants.

Action brought in the District Court of the First Judicial District of Idaho Territory in and for the County of Nez Perce in the office of the clerk of said District Court.

THE PEOPLE OF IDAHO TERRITORY send greeting to SAMUEL PHINNEY, W. A. CERRY and W. A. CALDWELL, defendants. You are hereby required to appear in an action brought against you by the above-named Plaintiffs in the District Court of the First Judicial District of Idaho Territory in and for the County of Nez Perce and to answer the complaint filed therein, within ten days (exclusive of the day of service) after the service on you of this summons—if served within this county; or if served out of this county, but in this district, within twenty days; otherwise, within thirty days or judgment by default will be taken against you, according to the prayer of said complaint. The said action is brought to recover on a certain promissory note the sum of four hundred dollars (\$400) gold coin, with interest at one and one-half per cent. per month from August 23 1875 and for costs of suit. And you are hereby notified that if you fail to appear and answer said complaint, as above required, the said plaintiffs will take judgement for the sum of four hundred dollars, (\$400) gold coin with interest and costs as set forth in said complaint.

Given under my hand and the seal of the District Court of the First Judicial District of Idaho Territory in and for the County of Nez Perce this 6th day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

H. SQUIER,
Clerk.

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MADE A SPECIALTY, AND ANY AND all business entrusted to them will be attended to promptly. We are making semi weekly trips to and from Lewiston, I. T., with stages. Leaving Lewiston at 4 o'clock A. M. on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and leaving Mount Idaho at 7 o'clock A. M., on Mondays and Thursdays of each week. Making weekly connections with the mining camps, Elk City, Florence and Warrens.

The best of references given if required.
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BAIRD BROS.